UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22254
22 February 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued after the meetings of the Council of Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union, held in the city of Benghazi, Libya, on 20 February 1991.

I would be grateful if you would kindly have the text of this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Ali A. TREIKI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued following the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union, held in the city of Benghazi, Libya, on 20 February 1991

The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union, during its emergency meeting in the city of Benghazi in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 20 February 1991, after reviewing the serious situation resulting from the devastating war that is currently being waged in the Gulf region, and in continuation of its endeavours, including its request for a meeting of the Security Council in order to arrange a cease-fire and provide an opportunity to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis,

Expressing its deep regret at the Security Council's failure to respond by holding a public meeting to arrange a cease-fire,

Decides as follows:

1. The Council regards the Iraqi initiative, expressing willingness to deal on the basis of Security Council resolution 660 (1990), as a positive step towards the achievement of a political solution to the Gulf crisis, within the context of international legality, calls upon all the parties to respond to that initiative, and emphasizes the fact that Iraq's acceptance of the said resolution removes all justification for the continuation of this war.

2. The Council, recalling the position that it adopted on 3 September 1990 at Algiers, comprising a categorical rejection of the use of force to settle disputes, rejects the policy of starving, and impairing the capabilities of, the Iraqi people and condemns the brutal bombardment of innocent civilians in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the deliberate and comprehensive destruction of Iraq's capabilities, including its infrastructure, with a view to the annihilation of its economic and scientific institutions and its cultural heritage, as flagrantly transcending the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

3. The Council draws attention to the real dangers arising from the showering of material, political and military aid on the Zionist entity, which has taken advantage of the war in the Gulf in order to strengthen its military and economic capabilities.

4. The Council affirms its ongoing support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, and for the Palestinian people's tempestuous uprising against the Zionist occupation and their resistance to the various methods of Zionist repression.

5. In view of the grave developments that the Arab nation is experiencing, the Council calls for an urgent meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab States, to be held in one of the Maghreb capitals, for the purpose of studying the Arab situation in such a way as to ensure the preservation of the higher interests and the capabilities of the Arab nation and the restoration of Arab solidarity.

6. The Council takes note of the appeal made to it by the European Economic Community, and the Council of Ministers will be contacting the Presidency of the EEC in this connection.

Issued on 20 February 1991